SPECIAL FEATURE NO. 3-1863 JUNE 28, 1978
FRED COOPER

RETIREMENT IN AMERICA
PART III
OPTIONS FOR POST-RETIREMENT ACTIVITY
(VOICED PIECE AND INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: BY THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND, ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE AMERICANS WILL BE OVER THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE AND MOST OF THOSE OVER SIXTY-FIVE ARE EXPECTED TO BE RETIRED FROM FULL-TIME WORK. WHAT WILL THESE RETIRED AMERICANS BE DOING? IN THIS LAST PART OF OUR SERIES ON RETIREMENT IN AMERICA, VOA'S FRED COOPER EXAMINES SOME OPTIONS FOR POST-RETIREMENT ACTIVITY.

VOICE: ALMOST TWENTY-TWO MILLION AMERICANS ARE AGE SIXTY-FIVE OR OLDER. MOST ARE NOW RETIRED. HOW CAN THEY BE MOST PRODUCTIVE AND HAPPY DURING THIS PERIOD OF THEIR LIVES? ACCORDING TO MERRELL MAYS CLARK -- SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEW YORK -- THERE IS A WIDE VARIETY OF CHOICES. SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ON RETIREMENT -- SPONSORED BY THE NEW YORK BUSINESS RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, THE CONFERENCE BOARD -- MISTER CLARK'S LIST OF POSSIBILITIES RANGED FROM NEW EMPLOYMENT, TO A RETURN TO SCHOOL:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- CLARK

"THE OPTIONS INCLUDE PAID WORK, NEW BUSINESS FORMATION, PROPRIETERSHIPS, SALES, CONSULTING SERVICES, VOLUNTEER ROLES IN EDUCATION, HEALTH, LEGAL SERVICES AND THE ARTS. AND I THINK THERE ARE MANY MUTUAL BENEFITS, THROUGHOUT THE SOCIETY, FOR ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN THE LEARNING PROCESS, DURING WHAT IS NOW A LONG PERIOD FOR MOST PEOPLE, FROM SIXTY OR SIXTY-FIVE UNTIL THEY REACH THE END OF THEIR -- HOPEFULLY -- FULL PRODUCTIVE LIVES."

VOICE: AT PRESENT, THERE ARE ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AMERICANS OVER THE AGE OF SIXTY, WHO ARE ENROLLED IN SOME SORT OF LEARNING INSTITUTION. AND TO ABBIE JEAN BROWNELL, DIRECTOR

VOICE: (CONT'D) OF THE ACTIVE RETIREMENT CENTER AT PACE UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK, RETURNING TO SCHOOL HEADS THE LIST OF STIMULATING AND REWARDING PATHS TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE FOR RETIREES:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- BROWNELL

"IN ACTUAL FACT, SCHOOLS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ARE NOW PLANNING THEIR PROGRAMS TO ATTRACT OLDER STUDENTS, IN ORDER TO OFFSET LOWER ENROLLMENTS OF YOUNGER GROUPS. VERY OFTEN CLASSES OF SPECIAL INTEREST ARE BEING OFFERED, AS WELL AS LOWER TUITION RATES AND INCLUSION IN STUDENT ACTIVITIES. LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS GIVE LECTURES AND COURSES, THERE ARE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT HIGH SCHOOLS, THE "Y'S," CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES. THERE'S ALMOST NOTHING ONE CAN'T LEARN -- OR TEACH."

VOICE: ACCORDING TO THE EXPERTS, THERE'S ALSO ALMOST NOTHING AN OLDER PERSON CAN'T DO. FOR EXAMPLE, THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HAS FOUND THAT ONLY FOURTEEN PERCENT OF JOBS IN INDUSTRY REQUIRE MUCH PHYSICAL STRENGTH. AND DUKE UNIVERSITY' CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF AGING AND DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA -- AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF STUDY -- HAS CONCLUDED THAT MOST OLD PEOPLE REMAIN OF SOUND BODY AND MIND UNTIL THE FINAL WEEKS OF LIFE.

AS MYTHS ABOUT THE LIMITATIONS OF OLDER PERSONS ARE DESTROYED, RETIREES ARE INCREASINGLY LIKELY TO BE VIEWED AS VALUABLE RESOURCES. PEOPLE LIKE EMILIO BERMISS (BUR-MEES) ALREADY SEE RETIRED PERSONS IN THAT LIGHT, MISTER BERMISS IS DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES -- AN INSURANCE COMPANY. FOR TWENTY YEARS, EQUITABLE HAS MAINTAINED A PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE RETIRED EMPLOYEES TO VOLUNTEER THEIR TALENTS TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES AROUND THE COUNTRY. MISTER BERMISS WAS ASKED WHO BENEFITS FROM SUCH PROGRAMS? HIS RESPONSE, "EVERYONE:"

TAPE: CUT THREE -- BERMISS

"FIRST IS THE EQUITABLE. OUR PROGRAM HAS ENHANCED THE COMPANY'S REPUTATION WITH THE RECIPIENTS OF THE SERVICES. FOR OUR RETIREES, THIS PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED OUTLETS WHERE THEIR VALUABLE SKILLS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED, CONTINUALLY USED, AND USUALLY APPRECIATED. HOWEVER, THE BENEFIT TO SOCIETY STANDS LARGEST OF ALL. IN THE PAST THIS COUNTRY HAS WASTED COUNTLESS YEARS OF TALENT. THE THOUGHT THAT EVENTUALLY WE WILL BE UTILIZING THIS RESOURCE TO IMPROVE THE VERY FABRIC OF SOCIETY IS INDEED THE BIGGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT BENEFIT OF ALL."

VOICE: OF COURSE, BESIDES VOLUNTEER WORK, PAID EMPLOYMENT AND STUDY, OLDER PERSONS CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES OR AN ENDLESS CHOICE OF HOBBIES, DURING THEIR RETIREMENT YEARS. EXPERTS AGREE THAT WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT PERSONS FACING RETIREMENT THINK OUT WHICH OPTIONS WILL GIVE THEM THE GREATEST SATISFACTION. THEY SHOULD CONSIDER THEIR SKILLS, WHAT THEY HAVE ALREADY DONE, AND WHAT THEY COULD DO. AND THEN GO OUT AND DO IT.

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